

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-04 FRB-01

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-20 STR-01

CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 DRC-01 /077 W

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P 150639Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1733

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 2371

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, BEXP, ETRD, EFIN, XF, SY

SUBJECT: MID-AMERICA TRADE MISSION VISIT TO SYRIA

REF: A. STATE 224895; B. STATE 176306 (AUG 12)

1. WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY CONCUR IN PROPOSED VISIT OF AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN TO DAMASCUS UNDER AUSPICES OF MID-AMERICA COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT COOPERATION UNDER LEADERSHIP OF THOMAS MINER. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONSULTING WITH MINER ADVANCE MAN, WIN BRIGGS, IN DAMASCUS OCT 22-23 IN ORDER TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR GROUP VISIT NOVEMBER 8-9.

2. MINISTER OF ECONOMY IMADI WAS MOST PLEASED TO LEARN OF PROPOSED VISIT AND ASSURED AMBASSADOR HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH OFFICIAL SARG CONCURRENCE BY OCT 15 PRIOR TO UPCOMING HOLIDAY PERIOD. WHEN RECEIVED, WE WILL CABLE SARG APPROVAL. (AS NOTED DAMASCUS 2079, POINT HIGH ON IMADI'S LIST FOR RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF US-SYRIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS IS FOR MORE AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN TO VISIT SYRIA.)

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3. ARRANGEMENTS:

A. PROGRAM: REQUEST DEPT PROVIDE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
FIRM LIST OF PARTICIPANTS, NAMES AND COMPANY AFFILIATIONS
SO THAT WE MAY BEGIN TO MAKE IN-HOUSE DRAFT PROGRAM AND
LIST OF CONTACTS FOR REVIEW WITH BRIGGS WHEN HE ARRIVES.

B. HOTELS: HOTEL SPACE USUALLY TIGHT IN DAMASCUS
AND, WE THEREFORE, NEED INDICATION SOONEST OF NUMBER OF
SIGNLES AND DOUBLES REQUIRED FOR GROUP.

C. TRANSPORT: LOCAL COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT CAN BE
ARRANGED, BUT WE CONCERNED RE IMPLIED TEHRAN TO DAMASCUS
MOVEMENT, FRIDAY, NOV 8; ONLY FLIGHTS FROM TEHRAN ARE PA-111
ON SUNDAYS AND SAA (707) ON TUESDAYS. GROUP COULD CONSIDER
STAYING IN TEHRAN UNTIL SUNDAY OR ARRANGE OTHER EARLIER ROUT-
ING SUCH AS TEHRAN/BEIRUT AND CHARTERED BUS TO DAMASCUS.
WE WOULD STRONGLY HOPE ANY ALTERNATIVE ROUTING WOULD NOT
CUT INTO TWO FULL DAYS GROUP SHOULD HAVE IN SYRIAN (FRIDAY
BEING NON-WORKING DAY).

D. COMMUNICATIONS: REQUEST DEPARTMENT UPDATE STATE
176306 INFORMING ALL CONCERNED POSTS THAT SYRIA NOW AN
ADDED STOP SO ALL POSTS MAY COORDINATE WITH EACH OTHER.

E. CONTROL OFFICER IS ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER
RODERICK M. WRIGHT, WHO CONSULTED WITH THOMAS MINER IN
MARCH DURING CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL TRAFE CONF.
MURPHY

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